



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2015**

**Florence Ely Nelson Desert Park  
8950 E. Pinnacle Peak Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255**

**SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Robert Frost, Vice Chair  
Con Englehorn, Commissioner  
Jace McKeighan, Commissioner  
Fred Klein, Commissioner  
Steve Dodd, Commissioner

**ABSENT:** James Heitel, Chairman  
Mike Milillo, Commissioner

**STAFF:** Bill Murphy  
Scott Hamilton  
Liz Hildenbrand  
Greg Paulson  
John Loleit  
Luis Santaella  
Officer Aaron Bolin

**GUEST SPEAKER** Mike Nolan  
John Holmes  
Jamil Coury  
Melanie Tluczek

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Frost called the meeting to order at 4:59 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**(Discussion begins at 5:00; approximately 1 minute into the meeting)

John Holmes suggested that the MSPC recommend to City Council that the Preserve Ordinance be revised to make it more relevant to the current time and to eliminate vague and redundant information.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (Discussion begins at 5:02; approximately 2 minutes into the meeting)

Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of July 15, 2015

**COMMISSIONER ENGLEHORN MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2015. COMMISSIONER MCKEIGHAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIRMAN HEITEL AND COMMISSIONER MILILLO WERE ABSENT.**

5. **MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY UPDATE** (Discussion begins at 5:03; approximately 3 minutes into the meeting)

Mr. Nolan reviewed summer activities, which included summer patrol, small construction and maintenance projects, and a library lecture series. The fall schedule includes new steward orientation beginning on September 12th; Pathfinders beginning the second half of September; and the Steward kickoff retreat will be on September 21st at DC Ranch Community Center.

Mr. Nolan noted that the new activity guide has been released, and there is a new guide available for butterflies in the Preserve. Helen Rowe has been hired as the new Director of the Field Institute. An art exhibit donated by SRPMIC is being installed in the exhibit room at Brown's Ranch for the upcoming season.

The first McDowell Sonoran Preserve Research Symposium is scheduled for October 24th and 25th and will include results of the research conducted by ecological and historical researchers.

Mr. Nolan distributed the new activity guides, which will be published every two months through the season. He noted that the Field Institute is conducting a butterfly survey in the fall.

6. **ECOLOGICAL RESOURCE PLAN** (Discussion begins at 5:07; approximately 7 minutes into the meeting)

Ms. Hildenbrand gave an update on the Resource Management Plan (RMP). The plan is evolving because the Preserve started out small and is now over 30,000 acres. The Resource Management Plan's purpose is to collect information on planning and evaluate whether information remains current as the Preserve moves from acquisition to operations.

She noted that the Cultural Resource Plan is in final draft stages, the climbing plan for Granite Mountain was recently presented and the Cholla Mountain climbing plan will be coming forward to the Commission in the future. Other policies and guidelines that are being worked on include public safety and land preservation.

Ms. Tluczek presented an update on the Ecological Resource Plan, which is currently in its final review. She discussed the guiding principles and objectives and recommendations. The recommendation for removal of non-native plants is to leave the large populations to be included in the study and to remove the small populations. Another recommendation is a temporary closure of the north face of Tom's Thumb during breeding season because of the sensitivity of resources in the area.

Next steps include studies to translate into long-range plans and working with staff to identify top level priority questions that have come out of the Ecological Resource Plan.

Commission members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Tluczek explained that any future amendments to the plan would be reviewed through the Science Advisory Committee, MSC Review Committee, City staff, and the Preserve Commission as appropriate.

**7. POLICE REQUEST FOR ORDINANCE UPDATE RELATED TO ANIMALS**  
(Discussion begins at 5:32; approximately 33 minutes into the meeting)

Ms. Hildenbrand introduced Officer Aaron Bolin and Luis Santaella who have worked to put together a proposed amendment to include in Preserve Ordinance Chapter 21.

Officer Bolin discussed his background and involvement with patrolling the Preserve. He explained a recent incident with a resident allowing his horses to roam in the Preserve who was issued a citation under City Code section 23-12(19). This brought to the City's attention that there was a need to adjust the language in the Code. The judge in the case determined that the language about "release" and the definition of "any animal" were unclear and the case was dismissed.

After researching other city ordinances, Officer Bolin and Mr. Santaella penned an amendment clarifying the areas of concern. The proposed language addresses domesticated animals and clarifies the definition of livestock.

Commissioner McKeighan expressed concern about the paragraph in the last clause where it states "on a designated and posted trail." He felt the sentence should either be deleted or clarified to state "within the Preserve boundaries."

Ms. Hildenbrand said that the amendments should be completed in time for action at next month's meeting.

**8. SPECIAL REQUEST FOR TRAIL RUN - MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN FRENZY**  
(Discussion begins at 5:44; approximately 45 minutes into the meeting)

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the Special Use Permit Guidelines.

Jamil Coury confirmed that the McDowell Mountain Frenzy is a proprietary organization and is expecting to collect revenue as a result of the event.

**COMMISSIONER MCKEIGHEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL USE REQUEST. COMMISSIONER ENGLEHORN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Commissioner Klein noted his opposition to approving the special use permit, because he felt competitive events are inappropriate for a nature preserve. He noted that the organization is already advertizing the event on their website prior to approval.

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the route sections that would be within Preserve boundaries. Mr. Coury said that he is expecting approximately 30 participants in the 50-mile event and 70 participants in the 15- kilometer event.

**THE MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ONE (1). COMMISSIONER KLEIN DISSENTED. CHAIRMAN HEITEL AND COMMISSIONER MILILLO WERE ABSENT.**

**9. STAFF REPORTS** (Discussion begins at 5:52; approximately 53 minutes into the meeting)

- Update of Trails 2C Corridor Plan (5:52)

Mr. Hamilton said that all of the new trails have been signed and marked and the new map has been posted to the website. The large maps located at the trailheads will be replaced with new maps. The Phase 2C working group, trail contractors, and consultants will begin working on plans for Areas 7 and 8 and Corridors 5 and 6 this fall.

- Preserve day 2015 (5:53)

Mr. Murphy announced that the Preserve Day Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, October 18th at Brown's Ranch. He outlined the day's activities noting that the library is embarking on a new program featuring the McDowell Sonoran Preserve on its library cards and will be offering library card sign up during the event from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. McDowell Sonoran Preserve Month and Preserve Day are being promoted in Leisure and Lifestyle magazine, Highroads Magazine, on the MSC email distribution list, through City of Scottsdale Library promotional outlets, and in utility billings.

- Tonto National Forest and Jeep Tour Update (5:58)

Mr. Murphy said that the outfitter prospectus has been completed by the Tonto National Forest (TNF) and two of the outfitters formerly running in the Preserve applied to the TNF and were chosen. The TNF and the outfitters are currently working on establishing routes. The Tonto National Forest will be working on their Travel Management Plan as things further develop.

Mr. Hamilton noted that it is anticipated that one of the routes will be off of 136th Street and one will be in the area of 144th Street.

- Deer Collaring Update (6:00)

Mr. Hamilton recalled that the deer collaring project is a collaborative effort between the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, Arizona Game and Fish, and the City of Scottsdale. The City has obtained a gaming grant from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and will purchase collars for Game and Fish to deploy. A minimum of 16 deer will be collared and up to 32 as funds become available. The animals will be monitored for a period of two years, at which time a detailed analysis and report on movement and habitat will be produced. At the end of the two-year period, the collars will be programmed to fall off the animals and will be retrieved through GPS tracking.

On September 21st staff will be asking City Council to approve the agreement between the City and Game and fish to facilitate the City giving the collars to Game and Fish.

- DDC (6:04)

Mr. Murphy said that the City Council report regarding the Desert Discovery Center is available for download at [www.scottsdaleaz.gov](http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov). Based on City Council's direction given in March, staff issued an RFQ for the Desert Discovery Center on May 13th. The RFQ closed on July 16th with one group, Desert Discovery Scottsdale, Inc., having submitted a proposal. Staff will be seeking additional direction during the September 8th City Council meeting.

## **10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

There were no additional comments.

## **12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Possible October agenda items include:

- Ideas for Endowment Concept and Conditions Follow-Up
- Cultural Resource Master Plan Update
- Land Acquisition Update

Other future Items:

- Earmarking Funds from commercial outfitters
- Drones
- Dogs in Preserve
- Priorities for Promotion Plan
- Fraesfield/Granite Update of Concept Planning
- DDC Process Update

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.